

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## Treatment of Poison Oak

Poison oak is a cause of many disabilities among workmen and may be regarded as an important factor in the industrial hygiene program. Doctor J. P. Russell, Chief of the Industrial Hygiene Service of the California State Department of Public Health, has provided the following information relative to the prevention and treatment of poison oak:

Wherever practicable, gloves and masks should be worn to protect the exposed skin from contact with the plant.

Personal hygienic measures, particularly washing thoroughly with soap and hot water immediately after contact or exposure, is usually effective in preventing a resulting dermatitis.

Most authorities recommend as a prophylactic measure, the local application to the skin of a mild oxidizing agent, such as a 5 per cent ferric chloride solution, or a 2 per cent aqueous solution of potassium permanganate, immediately after exposure. These preparations, while often effective in preventing the development of the dermatitis, have the disadvantage of producing a marked but transient discoloration of the skin.

An alternative preventive measure, which is also based on the oxidization of the toxic element in the plant, and which has been successful in many cases, is the application to the skin of a dusting powder composed of 10 per cent benzoyl peroxide in talcum powder, prior to or immediately after exposure to

the plant. This method is recommended by Dr. Leake as being preferable to the ferric chloride or potassium permanganate, in that it does not discolor the skin; however, in using this preparation, precaution must be taken to avoid any open flame, as the powder is inflammable.

The local application to the skin of equal parts of glycerine and water, following exposure, has also been recommended.

A bulletin has been issued by the U. S. Public Health Service, describing the etiological symptoms, prevention, and treatment of poison oak dermatitis.

### MARRIAGES DECLINE

There were 2547 fewer marriages recorded in California last year than in 1937. The rate declined from 9.8 to 9.3 per 1000 estimated population. In 1937, however, more marriages were registered than in any single year in the history of California. The numbers of marriages, by years, recorded during the past decade are as follows:

1938	61,850	1933	46,484
1937	64,397	1932	43,164
1936	60,197	1931	47,525
1935	56,554	1930	50,154
1934	51,924	1929	51,866

It will be noted that during the years of acute economic depression the numbers of registered marriages decreased measurably.

June, as usual, brought the highest number of marriages last year. Without exception, throughout a long period of years June has been the most popular month for marriage. Following are the numbers of marriages recorded, by months, for 1937 and 1938:

	1937	1938
January -----	4409	4537
February -----	4000	3830
March -----	4428	4060
April -----	4509	4208
May -----	4366	4599
June -----	8081	7500
July -----	6021	5615
August -----	6155	5669
September -----	6337	5932
October -----	5239	5233
November -----	5679	5461
December -----	5173	5206

#### MARRIAGES 1938-1937

Following are the numbers of marriages, with dates, for California counties, 1938 and 1937:

County	1938 No.	1938 Rate	1937 No.	1937 Rate
CALIFORNIA -----	61,850	9.3	64,397	9.8
Alameda -----	4,183	7.9	4,454	8.5
Alpine -----	1	4.1	2	8.3
Amador -----	35	4.0	38	4.3
Butte -----	233	6.5	262	7.3
Calaveras -----	44	7.3	31	5.2
Colusa -----	43	4.0	40	3.8
Contra Costa -----	647	7.2	701	8.0
Del Norte -----	62	11.1	54	9.8
El Dorado -----	43	4.7	57	6.3
Fresno -----	1,434	9.5	1,443	9.6
Glenn -----	70	6.4	66	6.0
Humboldt -----	305	6.7	359	7.9
Imperial -----	170	2.5	212	3.1
Inyo -----	22	3.4	36	5.5
Kern -----	1,211	12.8	1,162	12.5
Kings -----	344	12.8	339	12.7
Lake -----	67	8.4	50	6.4
Lassen -----	31	2.1	40	2.8
Los Angeles -----	23,177	8.4	24,576	9.1
Madera -----	275	14.2	253	13.3
Marin -----	554	11.6	447	9.5
Mariposa -----	44	12.8	53	15.6
Mendocino -----	206	8.8	179	7.6
Merced -----	440	10.5	429	10.4
Modoc -----	54	5.9	52	5.7
Mono -----	2	1.3	3	2.0
Monterey -----	714	11.0	698	11.0
Napa -----	264	11.1	226	9.5
Nevada -----	77	7.3	91	8.6
Orange -----	4,616	32.1	4,603	32.8
Placer -----	123	4.5	137	5.1
Plumas -----	22	2.5	22	2.5
Riverside -----	1,253	13.3	1,308	14.1
Sacramento -----	1,258	7.7	1,322	8.2
San Benito -----	197	16.0	191	15.7
San Bernardino -----	1,330	8.3	1,395	8.9
San Diego -----	2,547	10.1	2,632	10.7
San Francisco -----	5,935	8.6	6,631	9.7
San Joaquin -----	950	8.4	1,034	9.2
San Luis Obispo -----	448	13.6	372	11.4
San Mateo -----	835	8.8	923	9.9
Santa Barbara -----	928	12.3	945	12.7
Santa Clara -----	1,650	10.0	1,628	10.0
Santa Cruz -----	596	14.1	590	14.1
Shasta -----	168	11.8	124	8.8
Sierra -----	6	2.2	3	1.1
Siskiyou -----	220	7.7	192	6.8
Solano -----	385	9.4	316	7.7
Sonoma -----	585	8.8	623	9.4

County	1938 No.	1938 Rate	1937 No.	1937 Rate
Stanislaus -----	555	8.9	556	9.0
Sutter -----	80	4.8	78	4.8
Tehama -----	96	6.7	87	6.1
Trinity -----	20	6.9	14	4.8
Tulare -----	856	10.0	865	10.2
Tuolumne -----	81	8.2	74	7.5
Ventura -----	1,116	16.8	1,125	17.3
Yolo -----	121	4.6	141	5.4
Yuba -----	121	10.3	113	9.7

## Many Health Bills Before Legislature

(Continued from last issue)

### TUBERCULOSIS

**A. B. 1964—EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS FOR TUBERCULOSIS.**

Garland.

Referred to Committee on Education.

Amends School Code to permit county boards of education to demand filing of certificate from competent medical authority showing that the applicant for teaching position has, by physical examination within three years, been found free from tuberculosis.

**A. B. 1117—GRANTS IN AID FOR PERSONS WITH TUBERCULOSIS.**

**A. B. 1118—**

Mrs. Daley.

Referred to Committee on Social Service and Welfare.

Provides that persons eligible for the State subsidy of three dollars per week paid to counties caring for such persons shall be suffering from tuberculosis rather than in the active stages of tuberculosis.

**A. B. 1095—HORSE RACING FUNDS FOR TUBERCULOSIS WORK.**

Atkinson.

Referred to Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

Provides that 5 per cent of funds derived by the State from horse racing, after certain deductions have been made, shall be in "payment to the Bureau of Tuberculosis in the Department of Public Health to be used for the purpose of carrying out a program, including the payment of such administrative expenses as may be incurred in connection therewith, for the prevention of tuberculosis among school children and young adults."

**A. B. 1184—ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR BUREAU OF TUBERCULOSIS.**

Lore.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Makes an appropriation of \$94,000 for additional support for Bureau of Tuberculosis for purposes of conducting a survey as to the prevalence of tuberculosis among persons on relief.

### MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH BILLS

**S. B. 517—To Create a Consumers' Bureau and a Committee on Public Health in the State Board of Public Health, and to Provide for Registration of Proprietary Foods, Drugs, Cosmetics, and Health Devices.**

Kenny.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

This is a new act to provide for registration of proprietary articles listed in the above title and to organize a Consumers'

Bureau with director at a salary of \$7500 and five division heads at annual salaries of \$5000 each. Public health committee of five distinguished scientists appointed by Governor from list submitted by the academic senate of the University of California would serve as an agency of the bureau. Specifications pertaining to registration of articles, definitions of adulteration and misrepresentation are included. Sections pertaining to regulations, inspections, analyses, revocation or suspension of registration, publicity and health education and penalties are provided. Act would take effect January 1, 1940, and after that date the present State Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection would have jurisdiction over nonproprietary foods and drugs only. Bill specifies that the bureau would be an independent agency not subject to review or direction by the State Board of Public Health.

A. B. 1147, Atkinson and Dills, is identical.

**A. B. 1893—REGISTRATION OF CONSUMERS' UNIONS.**

Redwine.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary General.

This is a new act which provides that all consumers' unions, protective associations, and other organizations giving information concerning the merit of goods, merchandise, etc., must register with the State Board of Public Health giving detailed information relative to source of income, salaries paid, and other data.

A. B. 60—

**A. B. 61—SUGAR CONTAINERS IN PUBLIC PLACES.**

Bashore.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

This is a new act, making it a misdemeanor to place sugar in an open container for use of patrons in restaurants, hotels, soda fountains, etc.

A. B. 550—

**A. B. 551—LAUNDRY FROM HOSPITALS.**

Burns, Hugh M.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

Repeals sections of Penal Code and Health and Safety Code that prohibit receiving laundry from hospitals and other institutions where infectious diseases are treated or from any undertaking establishment.

**A. B. 1103—SECONDHAND RUGS AND FLOOR COVERINGS.**

King.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

Provides for regulation of the licensure of rug cleaners by the State Department of Public Health and the establishment of rules and regulations governing the sale and cleaning of secondhand rugs, carpets and floor coverings. Provides for labeling of rugs, etc., cleaned under the provisions of the proposed act and prescribes penalties for its violation.

**A. B. 450—RE DINITROPHENOL.**

Waters.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary Codes.

Makes a misdemeanor the selling, dispensing or prescribing of dinitrophenol for therapeutic purposes.

**A. B. 1019—DIPHENYLAMINE.**

Burns, H. M., and Rosenthal.

Referred to Committee on Medical and Dental Laws.

Makes it a felony to sell, dispense, administer or prescribe diphenylamine for any purpose.

**S. B. 162—ASSESSMENTS FOR PEST ABATEMENT DISTRICTS**

Quinn.

Referred to Committee on County Government.

Amends section 2871 of the Health and Safety Code to make

levy for support of pest abatement district at a uniform rate based upon area of land, regardless of assessed valuation.

**S. B. 175—PROVIDES FOR GARBAGE DUMP SITES UNDER SANITARY DISTRICT ACT.**

Fletcher.

Referred to Public Health and Quarantine Committee.

**S. B. 176—Same. Amends Public Health and Safety Code.**

Amends Sanitary District Act to provide for acquisition of garbage dump sites and their maintenance together with other sanitary works as outlined in the act.

**A. B. 1240—RECREATION DISTRICTS.**

Scudder and Maloney.

Referred to Committee on State Grounds and Parks.

Amends Recreation District Act of 1931 to permit operation of swimming pools, sewage and garbage disposal systems and other works in recreational districts.

**A. B. 1910—**

**A. B. 1911—GARBAGE DISPOSAL.**

Weber.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

Amend Section 374b of the Penal Code and the Public Health and Safety Code. To prevent the disposing or dumping of garbage in or upon any private property or upon which the public is admitted by easement or license, or on any private property without the consent of the owner.

**A. B. 444—CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS.**

Evans.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

Deletes from Section 4225 and 4225a of the Political Code the statement that the provisions of each section do not apply to cities of the first and one-half class.

**S. B. 1034—SANITARY DRINKING RECEPTACLES.**

Seawell.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

Adds a section to the Health and Safety Code requiring employer who supplies drinking water to employees to provide individual sanitary cups or receptacles for the use of such employees, except if a sanitary drinking fountain is provided.

**S. B. 866—TRAILER CAMPS.**

Fletcher.

Referred to Committee on Governmental Efficiency.

Adds a new section to Trailer Camp Act of 1937 to give enforcement of act in unincorporated areas of a county having a full-time health officer or department to the health officer of such county.

**MORBIDITY**

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending  
January 28, 1939

**Chickenpox**

791 cases: Alameda County 8, Alameda 6, Albany 1, Berkeley 12, Emeryville 3, Oakland 19, Piedmont 1, Gridley 2, Calaveras County 2, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 6, Pinole 1, Fresno County 32, Fresno 8, Willows 1, Imperial County 1, Kern County 4, Corcoran 4, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 69, Alhambra 13, Arcadia 2, Avalon 2, Burbank 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 7, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 14, Los Angeles 91, Monrovia 20, Montebello 4, Pasadena 9, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 5, Santa Monica 7, South Pasadena 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 35, Chowchilla 2, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 3, Mariposa County 2, Merced County 15, Los Banos 1, Merced 1,

Monterey County 2, King City 1, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 12, Anaheim 3, Brea 1, Newport Beach 3, Orange 3, Santa Ana 1, Banning 8, Beaumont 13, Corona 11, Sacramento County 9, Sacramento 13, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego County 24, Oceanside 2, San Diego 28, San Francisco 83, San Joaquin County 22, Stockton 9, Tracy 12, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo County 5, Burlingame 1, Daly City 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 9, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 1, Gilroy 3, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 9, San Jose 7, Santa Clara 5, Siskiyou County 1, Sonoma County 8, Tehama County 1, Trinity County 2, Tulare County 17, Lindsay 1, Ventura County 4, Oxnard 2, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 1, Woodland 1.

#### Diphtheria

30 cases: Oakland 6, Fresno County 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 10, Pomona 1, Marin County 2, Merced County 1, Orange County 1, Indio 2, Redlands 1, San Francisco 1, Red Bluff 2, Ventura County 1.

#### German Measles

37 cases: Oakland 3, San Leandro 1, Bakersfield 3, Los Angeles County 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 6, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Hawthorne 1, Maywood 1, Mariposa County 2, San Bernardino County 5, Oceanside 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Benicia 1.

#### Influenza

33 cases: Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Azusa 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Los Angeles 14, Orange County 2, Santa Ana 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3.

#### Malaria

3 cases: Los Angeles 1, Dixon 1, California 1.\*

#### Measles

2202 cases: Alameda County 74, Alameda 37, Albany 7, Berkeley 73, Emeryville 4, Hayward 16, Livermore 1, Oakland 265, Piedmont 2, San Leandro 61, Contra Costa County 9, El Cerrito 8, Pittsburg 22, Richmond 17, Fresno County 14, Fresno 3, Orland 1, Imperial County 3, Lassen County 12, Los Angeles County 12, Alhambra 1, Burbank 14, Glendale 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 34, Los Angeles 54, Montebello 4, Pasadena 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, Torrance 5, South Gate 2, Madera County 14, Chowchilla 5, Marin County 11, Ross 16, San Anselmo 17, San Rafael 3, Sausalito 4, Merced County 8, Salinas 1, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 35, Riverside 89, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 5, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 26, San Bernardino 10, La Mesa 1, National City 2, San Diego 13, San Francisco 719, San Joaquin County 11, Stockton 15, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Mateo County 67, Burlingame 5, Daly City 36, Redwood City 6, San Mateo 8, South San Francisco 5, San Carlos 1, Menlo Park 1, Belmont 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 59, Los Gatos 2, Palo Alto 15, San Jose 143, Santa Clara 8, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 1, Siskiyou County 32, Solano County 1, Dixon 1, Vallejo 4, Sonoma County 13, Petaluma 2, Tehama County 4, Tulare County 1, Visalia 1, Yuba County 1.

#### Mumps

931 cases: Alameda County 15, Alameda 4, Albany 20, Berkeley 91, Emeryville 12, Oakland 134, Piedmont 17, Pleasanton 3, San Leandro 14, Calaveras County 1, Contra Costa County 6, El Cerrito 21, Martinez 3, Richmond 1, Fresno County 15, Fresno 3, Imperial County 1, Kern County 49, Los Angeles County 13, Alhambra 3, El Monte 1, Glendale 5, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 24, Pasadena 6, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 3, South Pasadena 2, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 8, San Rafael 1, Mariposa County 2, Yosemite National Park 1, Mendocino County 4, Merced County 115, Los Banos 4, Merced 4, Monterey County 6, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 7, Beaumont 5, Riverside 7, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 33, San Bernardino County 4, Ontario 14, San Diego County 24, National City 1, Oceanside 5, San Diego 9, San Francisco 47, San Joaquin County 26, Manteca 4, Stockton 19, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo 11, San Mateo County 3, Burlingame 8, Hillsboro 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 17, Solano County 3, Suisun 2, Vallejo 4, Sonoma County 3, Trinity County 11, Tulare County 7, Exeter 4, Porterville 1, Visalia 4, Sonora 1, Yolo County 1, Woodland 4, Yuba County 1.

#### Pneumonia (Lobar)

74 cases: Hayward 1, Oakland 2, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Burbank 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 26, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, Maywood 2, Merced County 2, Orange County 1, Laguna Beach 1, Rocklin 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 10, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Sonora 2, Yuba County 1.

#### Scarlet Fever

258 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 3, Oakland 6, Chico 3, Colusa County 1, Placerville 1, Fresno County 22, Fresno 4, El Centro 2, Kern County 2, Hanford 1, Lemoore 1,

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Los Angeles County 27, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 1, Compton 2, El Monte 1, Glendale 3, Long Beach 14, Los Angeles 52, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 4, Sierra Madre 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 3, Monterey Park 2, Bell 3, Merced County 4, Newport Beach 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 7, Banning 2, Corona 2, Elsinore 1, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento County 2, Ontario 4, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 5, San Francisco 22, Stockton 3, Paso Robles 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 2, Los Gatos 3, San Jose 2, Shasta County 1, Solano County 2, Benicia 1, Vallejo 2, Sonoma County 1, Sutter County 1, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 2, Porterville 2, Ventura 4, Winters 1.

#### Smallpox

12 cases: Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 3, Tulare County 2, California 3.\*

#### Typhoid Fever

5 cases: Brawley 3, Merced County 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Whooping Cough

116 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Del Norte County 5, Kern County 1, Lassen County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 2, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 27, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, Torrance 1, Gardena 5, San Anselmo 1, King City 2, Fullerton 3, Orange 1, Santa Ana 6, San Bernardino County 3, San Diego County 2, Oceanside 2, San Diego 14, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin County 3, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Barbara 1, Sonoma County 2, Ventura County 6, Oxnard 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 1, Winters 2.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic)

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, Burlingame 1, Tulare County 1, Yuba County 1.

#### Dysentery (Amoebic)

5 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Ontario 3.

#### Dysentery (Bacillary)

3 cases: Los Angeles 1, Merced County 1, Sonoma County 1.

#### Tetanus

One case: Los Angeles County.

#### Trachoma

8 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 1, Indio 3, San Mateo County 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1.

#### Paratyphoid Fever

3 cases: Los Angeles 2, Indio 1.

#### Typhus Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1.

#### Botulism

2 cases: Fresno County.

#### Jaundice (Epidemic)

One case: Alameda County.

#### Food Poisoning

49 cases: Orange.

#### Undulant Fever

4 cases: Glendale 1, Whittier 1, Merced 1, Petaluma 1.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case: Woodland.

#### Septic Sore Throat

Two cases: Kern County.

#### Rabies (Animal)

46 cases: Fresno County 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Arcadia 1, Azusa 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Los Angeles 7, Redlands 2, San Diego 2, San Joaquin County 3, San Mateo County 1, Santa Clara County 10, Morgan Hill 2, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 2.